

CRANBURY PRESBYTERIAN NURSERY SCHOOL 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School (CPNS) has completed its 33rd year of providing a Christian preschool environment to preschoolers and their families.

Our enrollment for the school year 2017-2018 is as follows:

- 2 ½-year-old classes have 25 of the 24 spots filled
- 3-year-old classes have 34 of the 42 spots filled
- 4-year-old classes have 44 of the 44 spots filled
- KSB class have 16 of the 14 spots filled

We currently offer 9 classes. They are as follows:

- 2 ½-year-old classes: Monday/Wednesday AM and Tuesday/Thursday AM
- 3-year-old classes: Tuesday/Thursday AM
Monday/Wednesday/Friday AM
Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday PM
- 4-year-old classes: Monday/Wednesday/Friday AM
Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday AM
Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday PM
- Kindergarten Skill Builders: Monday/Friday PM

Our statistics for the school year 2017-2018 are:

- 6 of our current students have a parent as a church member, 1 child has a grandparent as a church member. Many other families are active in our church's programs. We continue to welcome CPNS families to participate in the life of our church. There are a few families that currently attend worship and Sunday school, and many that teach in Vacation Bible School.
- 12 families have siblings enrolled, 6 of these families have twins.
- Approximately 39% of our families this year are from Cranbury.

We offer our Lunch and Fun program 5 days a week. We also offer a variety of enrichment classes including Alphabet Soup, Book Nook, Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead, Let's Pretend, Power of Play and Sing, Dance & Play. For children not yet able to attend our regular CPNS classes, we offer our Mommy and Me program on Friday mornings.

This year our music program consists of music and movement classes led by Jenni Collins. Dorothy Klotzbecher has been instrumental in establishing our music program at CPNS since its inception in 1986 and continues to assist with our special music programs throughout the year. Music is so important to the development of preschoolers and we are blessed to have these individuals sharing their special talents with CPNS.

Our community participation continues through our involvement in Cranbury Day, sharing a table with the church, and our continued support to the volunteers of the Cranbury Fire Department and First Aid Squad with our Cranbury Community Volunteer Program. We are also a member of the Cranbury Business Association.

Our 2017-2018 staff totals 25, which includes 12 Teachers: Vicki Bain, Francine Coffee, Jenni Collins, Pam Dressel, Kathy Edwards, Helen Lazzaro, Logan O'Meara, Debbie Petro, Linda Protinick, Denise Reilley, Kay Scott, and Theresa Vaccaro; seven Assistant Teachers: Kathy Iorio, Linda Protinick (also a teacher of our Mommy & Me class), Felicia Halligan, Denise Reilley (also a teacher in one of our enrichment classes), Sandy Price, Helen Lazzaro (also a teacher of one of our enrichment classes) and Renee Spero.

Vicki Bain, one of our teachers, also serves as our Head Teacher. Gretchen Potter serves as our Lunch Hour Coordinator, Kathleen Cenci assists with various administrative duties. Denise Reilley continues as our Purchaser. Our Lunch Program Teachers are Dorothy Klotzbeacher, Jenni Collins, Pam Dressel, Felicia Halligan, Anne Marie Gibson, Tannashae Perrine, Gretchen Potter, Linda Protinick, Renee Spero, Nancy Kietlinski and Bettina Velen-Lam.

Pam Dressel teaches our Let's Pretend Enrichment Program, assisted by Felicia Halligan. Denise Reilley teaches our Alphabet Soup Enrichment Program assisted by Renee Spero. Debbie Petro and Kathy Iorio teach our Power of Play and Book Nook Enrichment Programs. Linda Protinick teaches our Mommy and Me Program. Helen Lazzaro teaches our Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead Enrichment Program, assisted by Denise Reilley and Jenni Collins teaches our Sing, Dance & Play Enrichment Program assisted by Linda Protinick. Kindergarten Skill Builders class is taught by Vicki Bain and Kay Scott.

Jenni Collins provides our weekly Music Program to all of our 2½, 3 and 4/5 year-old classes along with Dorothy Klotzbeacher assisting in our wonderful parent music programs with all of our CPNS families. Janice Parker is our Director. We also have a variety of individuals who substitute teach for CPNS. Lori Kleppe from the West Windsor/Plainsboro School District serves as our Learning Consultant. Janet Wheeler is our Business Administrator. Pat Cavender and Matt Rhodes support us in maintaining our CPNS web site. Stan Dickerson continues to provide us with building and grounds support along with the very dedicated members of our Buildings and Grounds Committee.

During our Christmas Party we not only celebrated the service awards but also several accomplishments. The service awards went to Linda Protinick for 15 years of service, Pam Dressel for 10 years, Francine Coffee and Vicki Bain for 5 years of service. The accomplishments included Linda Protinick for renewing her Child Development Associates (CDA) for the third time, Felicia Halligan for completing her coursework for her CDA, Helen Lazzaro for completing the steps for her provisional preschool through third grade teaching certification (P-3) and Theresa Vaccaro for obtaining her P-3 certification. It is so important in this ever changing field of Early Childhood that we continue to learn all we can to provide the most appropriate education to our preschoolers.

The CPNS Board for 2017 consisted of 9 board members, of which 6 are church members and 3 are non-church members. They are: Samantha Andrews, Chris Cenci, Jessica Corriveau, Matt Curran, Dina Ellsworth, Candice Gluck, (early resignation accepted) Nicole Minguillon, Patria Sullivan (Moderator), and Kristen Taylor. The Board also has two non-voting advisors, Lori Kleppe and our senior pastor Dr. Louis Mitchell. We are so grateful to have these individuals share their gifts and talents with CPNS.

At the conclusion of the year 2017 Matt Curran, Chris Cenci and Jessica Corriveau complete their terms. Chris completed two terms for a total of six years. Jessica will be returning as a board

member to complete another three-year term beginning January 2018. We have two new members joining the board in 2018— Adria Janni and Jim Taylor both church members. We continue to fill the unexpired term of Candice Gluck.

Our 2017/2018 annual tuition fees were as follows:

- \$1,997.00 for all two session programs
- \$2,867.00 for all three session programs
- \$2,105.00 for Kindergarten Skill Builders

Here are a few highlights from our year:

- We continue to provide an example of an appropriate early childhood learning environment for students from TCNJ (The College of New Jersey) who are learning to be teachers. Every Wednesday a group of students from TCNJ participate in their sophomore field experience at CPNS.
- We continue to maintain our national accreditation with the National Association for the Education of young children (NAEYC).
- Our CPNS Pre-Summer program was held for two weeks in June, and our CPNS Summer program was held for two weeks in July.
- We began a kindergarten transition collaboration with the Cranbury Public School and look forward to our continued relationship with this initiative.
- Our McCaffrey receipt collection, thanks to Lil Conley, continues successfully, and we receive 1% of the total sales. We also continue to participate in a program through Amazon, called “Amazon Smile”.
- In April of 2016, we honored Mrs. “K” for her dedication and love to the children and families of CPNS. A gala and silent auction was held on April 23 at the Cranbury Inn. We raised about \$16,000 for playground enhancements. These enhancements included a music store, gas station, new sandbox, adult and children benches and landscaping. Thank you George Conley as our B&G support person on this project. We dedicated our CPNS playground to Mrs. “K” on June 4 after church. Everyone was invited and CPNS hosted an outdoor coffee hour with cookies and lemonade.
- After many years of Andy Van Siclén’s dedicated service to moving the CPNS fence every week, he requested retirement from that position. Thank you so much Andy for all you have done to keep everyone safe. With the help of B&G and funding from CPNS we were able to install a permanent fence.
- We successfully renewed our license with the NJ Department of Children and Families, Office of Licensing which included an indoor evaluation which is good until August 31, 2020.
- Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School offered for the first time a screening and monitoring program for our children. Because a child’s first five years of life are so important, we want to help provide the best possible start for our children. As part of participating in a developmentally appropriate academic program at CPNS, we provided the Ages & Stages Questionnaires, Third Edition (ASQ-3), to help keep track of each child’s development.
- We continue our participation in “Grow NJ Kids” which is New Jersey’s new rating and improvement system designed to assess early care and education programs, provide training and incentives to improve, and to communicate their level of quality to the public. We have received just under \$10,000.00 in classroom enhancements. Several of our staff members took advantage of the scholarship money available. We also continue to be supported by the technical assistant specialists that help in a variety of ways. One way is

their help with increasing our quality through the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS-3). We are looking forward to their continued support and being rated in the spring of the 2017-2018 school year.

- I continue my work toward my Ed.D at Rutgers the State University. My course work is complete and I successfully passed the qualifying exam. I defended my dissertation proposal in March and completed the research with three of our CPNS teachers. My dissertation is a professional development initiative aimed at improving the teaching of oral language during playtime. I am excited to continue to share the information that I am learning with all of us at CPNS, and the opportunities to help CPNS excel with new and appropriate ways for children and our teachers to learn. I look forward to defending my dissertation in the Spring of 2018. I maintain certification as a Professional Development Specialist, and continue to teach at the College of New Jersey as an adjunct professor in the Early Childhood Department. I have completed 18 years at CPNS as the Director, and prior to that as an assistant teacher for one year and taught in the 3-year-old program for four years for a combined total of 23 years of service to CPNS.

Our year was once again filled with a variety of milestones, activities and new opportunities. CPNS successfully maintains a developmentally appropriate Christian preschool program offering the guidance for learning important life skills and the appropriate academic requirements kindergarten programs are now demanding in addition to the accountability pressures that are reshaping the learning environment for young children and their teachers. Our CPNS Curriculum resource and our curriculum of choice, “Creative Curriculum”, provide additional opportunities to do what we do best regarding children and their learning. We are the most developmentally appropriate academic Christian preschool in the area and we are blessed to continue to offer this outstanding preschool program to our church members and local community.

CPNS is a place where children are safe and comfortable and succeed in an environment filled with love and Christian values. The preschool years provide the important foundation for each child to build upon. CPNS provides this very important foundation by using a developmentally appropriate curriculum and with teachers who share their unconditional love and respect with each and every child, and work to meet each child at their own developmental stage. Children blossom in their care! CPNS children become successful preschool graduates who continue to want to succeed and learn. The dedication and commitment of our teachers, assistant teachers, and each staff member, never goes unnoticed and is so greatly appreciated. Each year during our Christmas celebration our teachers are recognized for their years of service with CPNS. This year we recognized Debbie Petro for her 20 years of service. Thank you, Debbie, and all of our teachers for everything you share with our children every day. You can see for yourself the dedication and commitment for the many years of service of all of our staff members: Dorothy Klotzbecher – 1985; Pam Dressel – 1993 (left in 1996 to have children and returned in 2010); Janice Parker – 1994; Kathy Iorio – 1995; Debbie Petro – 1996; Kathy Edwards – 1999; Linda Protinick – 1999 (left in 2007 and returned in 2010); Denise Reilley – 2007; Vicki Bain – 2012; Francine Coffee – 2012; Helen Lazzaro – 2013; Theresa Vaccaro – 2013; Jennie Collins – 2013; Sandy Price – 2014, Felicia Halligan – 2015, Anne Marie Gibson – 2016, Nancy Kietlinski – 2016, Renee Spero – 2016, Logan O’Meara (an alumnus of CPNS) – 2016, Tannashae Perrine, 2017, Gretchen Potter – 2017, Kay Scott – 2017, Bettina Velena-Lam.

As part of the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury, we are blessed with a church staff that is always there to lend a hand, including our pastors who share important Christian messages to our children, and their spiritual support shared with all of us. We are also blessed with our Buildings

& Grounds Committee comprised of volunteers who maintain our facilities and provide a safe environment for our children. They continue to go above and beyond expectations. Our Senior Fellowship group graciously invites our children to participate in their events and our Mission, Service and Grants Committee continues to provide opportunities to show our children how to help others. The Outreach Committee provides a connection to our community through advertising and the church website. Pat Cavender, Ann Mooney and Matt Rhodes, part of our Website Committee, continue to exceed in helping to provide CPNS with a website that is easy to navigate and filled with valuable information for our existing families and new families looking for a preschool for their children. They also share their knowledge and guidance regarding how we can enhance our communication through our website. I cannot thank them enough for all they do and for the time they dedicate to CPNS and our church. Support is evidenced continuously through the many church committees and members of the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury.

We have been awarded accreditation in the National Association for the Education of Young Children and through the dedication and hard work of all of us at CPNS we continue to maintain this national recognition. The recognition let's everyone know just how special CPNS is for all children and to affirm the commitment and dedication of excellence at CPNS.

We would like to thank everyone for their contributions and support to help make what I do an enjoyable and fulfilling experience. Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide this special preschool experience to our children as we continue to rise to meet their needs. Thank you also for your continued warm welcome into the church family at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury and for always including CPNS in church programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Parker, Director and Patria Sullivan, CPNS Moderator